

*The PERILS of FALSE BRETHREN,
both in Church, and State :*

Set forth in a

S E R M O N

PREACH'D before

The RIGHT HONOURABLE,

THE

LORD-MAYOR,

Aldermen, and Citizens of *London,*

AT THE

Cathedral-Church of St. Paul,

On the 5th of *November, 1709.*

— Haud Imprudenter speculatus, Neminem celerius Opprimi,
quam Qui nihil timeret: & Frequentissimum Initium esse Calamitatis
SECURITATEM. *V. Paterc. L. 2. c. 118.*

— *When they shall say PEACE, and SAFETY, then Sudden
Destruction cometh upon them as Travail upon a Woman with Child, and
they shall not escape, 1 Thess. c. 5. v. 3.*

The Second Edition.

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L O N D O N :

Printed for **HENRY CLEMENTS,** at the *Half-Moon* in
St. Paul's Church-Yard. 1709.

THE LONDON AND WESTMINSTER

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TO the RIGHT HONOURABLE

Sir Samuel Garrard, Bar^t.
L O R D - M A Y O R
O F T H E
C I T Y of L O N D O N.

My LORD,

BY Your Lordship's Command this Discourse ventures to appear in Publick, in Contempt of all those Scandalous Misrepresentations the Malicious Adversaries of Our Church have Traduc'd it with, and that Impartial Sentence it had the Honour to Receive from some of those Acute, and Wise Judges, who Condemn'd it without Sight, or Hearing. But 'tis no New Thing with some Men to Censure at random what lies out of their Sphere; Examining a Cause may prove Dangerous, for fear of their Own Conviction of it's Merits. When Men are Resolv'd to Leap into a Gulph, the best way is to shut their Eyes, for fear they should see their Danger, and Repent of their Folly. When They are thus Abandon'd, and Given up to Ruin, the Charitable Hand, that would hold out an Unwelcom Light to Prevent it, must expect to be Treated with that Ungrateful Insolence, and Reproach, which usually attends the Generous Freedom of those who Dare speak Seasonable, and Necessary Truths. That Patient's Case doubtless is very Desperate, that sets himself against his Cure; and when Men are so stupidly harden'd in their

The DEDICATION.

Errors as to Resist the most Glaring Evidence, there's no room for Argument, or Gospel. Moses, and the Prophets, may with Christ, and his Apostles, be Banish'd our Synagogues, when Truth must be Oppress'd by Number, and Noise, and Rebellious Appeals to the People, as the only Judges of Right, and Wrong, and the Dernier Resort of Justice, and Dominion. Are not these the Fashionable Methods now made use of to Over-bear, and Silence Our Church, to Affront and Revile our Legislature, in order to Break in upon the Prerogative of the Crown? By Threatning them with Imaginary Legions, and a Popular Tribunal, where their Authority, and Establishment are to be Try'd, and Determin'd? To put a stop to which Dangerous and Encroaching Mischief, that now with Impunity walks up and down thro' this Distracted Kingdom, I thought it my Duty (being Summon'd to this Office by Your Lordship) to Discharge it in the BEST METHOD I could, to Preserve Us from these Malicious Designs, by endeavouring, if possible, to Open the Eyes of the Deluded People in this Our Great Metropolis; being Conscious of what Prodigious Importance it is to the Welfare of the whole Nation, to have its Rich, and Powerful Inhabitants set right in their Notions of Government, both in Church, and State; that they may not be Flatter'd into their Ruin, but seeing the Fatal Consequences of these Damnable False Doctrins, which some Seditious Impostors have labour'd to Poyson 'em with, may Forsake, and Detest them. I am confident, My Lord, that this Glorious, and Renown'd City can Boast of so many Excellent Examples of Unshaken Steadiness, Disinterested Probity and true Zeal, and Loyalty for Our Church, and Sovereign, that if they would act with the same Open, and Undaunted Resolution Your Lordship does, these Affrighting Phantoms must Vanish. But if Honest Gentlemen will sit still, and give up their Cause through want of
Courage,

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Courage, or a Just Sense of the Dangerous Attempts of Our Enemies, without the Spirit of Prophecy, We may foretel what will become of Our Constitution, when 'tis so Vigorously Attack'd from Without, and so Lazily Defended from Within.

We are told by these Men, who would fain shut both our Eyes, and our Mouths, in order the more effectually to Undermine, and Destroy Us, that the Pulpit is not a place for Politicks, and that 'tis the Business of a Clergy-man to Preach Peace, and not sound a Trumpet in Sion, so expressly contrary to the Command of God, to Cry aloud, and Spare not. My Lord, I was humbly of Opinion, that the Fifth Commandment was Genuine; the Fanatics would do well to strike that Dangerous Precept out of the Decalogue, as the Papists have the Second, that neither might Rise in Judgment against these United Friends, and Brethren. Now as This stands the First in the Second Table, is it not of the utmost Importance, to be rightly Understood, as containing the Principal Duty that we owe to God's Vice-Gerents, which has been so Scandalously, and Villainously Misinterpreted of late, to the Great Dishonour of Both? Certainly Our Church thought so Formerly, when it took such Care to Guard Our Obedience, with more Homilies concerning the Peril of Rebellion, than of any Other Sin. And when was more Reason for Enforcing their Doctrines than now, when We see these admirable Dissuatives against Faction, and Sedition, maliciously Wrested to Countenance, and Support it? If our Excellent Constitution apprehends no hazard from these Licentious Proceedings, I am sure Those who would defend it from them, have reason to do so, with regard to their Own Persons: Our Pastors can't do their Duty without being Menac'd for it, and Slander'd by the Vile Amanuenses of the Mob, to expose us to their Fury, as Papists, and Men Disaffected to Her Majesty's Government, whose Safety, Rights
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The DEDICATION.

and Establishment, together with Those of the Church, We so earnestly contend for; which I solemnly here Declare (as I did before in this Discourse) to be my only Aim and Intention; and in an humble way to follow the Footsteps of Your Lordship, who is so Bright an Ornament, and Support of them. That This Great City may Flourish under Your Auspicious Conduct, and never want a Magistrate of Your steady Principles to Guide and Govern it, is the hearty Prayer of,

My LORD,

Your Lordship's

Most Humble Servant,

HENRY SACHEVERELL.

A
S E R M O N

PREACH'D before the

L O R D - M A Y O R , &c.

2 C O R. xi. 26.

In P E R I L S *among* F A L S E B R E T H R E N .

AMONG All the most Dreadful *Plots* that ever Threatn'd this Church, and Kingdom, the Dismal *Tragedy* contriv'd as this Day to be Executed on Both, may justly claim the Horrible Precedence, and consequently the Highest Expressions of Our Gratitude for so Astonishing and Miraculous a Deliverance from it. For whether We consider the Black Depth of its subtle Contrivance, the Destructive Extent, and Sanguinary Consequences of it, or its Surprising, and Unaccountable Discovery, We must confess, that nothing but the All-Powerful, and Gracious Hand of God, interposing against the utter Subversion of Our Nation, and Religion, could have prevented such a Fatal Conspiracy. A Conspiracy! so full of the most Unheard-of Malice, most Insatiable Cruelty, most Diabolical Revenge, as only could be Hatch'd in the Cabinet Council of Hell, and Brought forth in a Conclave of Romish Jesuits! Now though the History of this Unparallel'd Mystery of Iniquity, was Design'd against Us at such a Distance of Time, and the Fact so evidently Acknowledg'd, that the Papists themselves are so far from Denying, that they Extol it with the Highest Panegyrics; so that there needs neither Proof of the One, nor Repetition of the other: Yet doubtless 'tis as much Our Duty, as Interest, to keep up the Annual Celebration of this Never-to-be-forgotten-Festival. For that the very Face, and Shadow of Our Church,

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and Constitution, is yet *Surviving* ; That this *Good*, and *Pious Relict* of the *Royal Family* Sits now *Happily* upon the *Throne* of Her Great *Ancestors* ; That Our *Hierarchy*, and *Nobility* was not finally *Extirpated* and cut off ; That our *Country* was not made an *Aceldama*, a *Field of Blood*, and a *Receptacle* of *Usurping Robbers* ; That We yet, without *Slavery*, *Superstition*, or *Idolatry*, enjoy the *Benefit* of our *Excellent Laws*, and most *Holy Profession* Undeild : In a Word, That God has yet *Vouchsaf'd Us this Opportunity* of coming into his *Presence*, to *Acknowledge* these *Inestimable Blessings*, is owing to his *Mercy* so signally shewn to Us, in *Disappointing* the *Barbarous Massacre* intended *This Day*. A *Day* ! which ought to stand for Ever in the *English Kalendar*, as an *Eternal Era* at the *One End*, as the *Thirtieth* of *January* at the *Other*, for *Indelible Monuments* of the *Irreconcilable Rage*, and *Blood-Thirstiness* of both the *Popish*, and *Fanatick Enemies* of Our *Church*, and *Government* ! For These are *equally* such *Treacherous FALSE BRETHREN*, from whom we must always expect the *utmost Perils*, and *against* whom we can never sufficiently *Arm Our selves* with the *greatest Caution*, and *Security*. These *TWO DAYS* indeed, are but *One United Proof*, and *Visible Testimonial* of the same *Dangerous*, and *Rebellious Principles*, these *Confederates in Iniquity* Maintain : And as the *One* is but a *Thanksgiving* for our *Deliverance* from what the *First Projected* ; so is the *Other* an *Humiliation*, for what God permitted the *Latter*, by *Their Help and Direction*, to put in *Execution*. I think therefore the *Best way* of *Acknowledging* These *Great Mercies*, and *Judgments* of God, and *Acquitting Both Solemnities* in a *Proper way*, is by so justly *Considering* Our *Circumstances* with respect to *Each Side*, as to *Guard against Their Malicious*, and *Factionous Designs* for the future ; that we may never *Trust Either*, to need a *Second Deliverance* from those *Villanous Enterprises*, they will never cease to put in *Practice*, whenever they see an *Opportunity* of *Doing it with Security*.

Now as *Persecution*, and *Affliction*, were the *Distinguishing Badges* of the *Messiah*, who was a *Man of Sorrows*, and *Acquainted with Griefs* ; so to convince his *Disciples*, that his *Kingdom was not of this World*, He *Bequeath'd* the same *sad Legacy* to Them, to *share the Character*, as well as *imitate the Example*, of their *Dying Lord*, and *Master*. With *unshaken Courage*, and *Resolution*, to take up His *Bloody Cross*, and follow the *Great Leader of Their Salvation* : To *March* with a *Chearful Magnanimity* through all the *Powers of Darkness*, looking unto *Jesus the*
Author

Author and Finisher of their Faith, who for the Joy that was set before Him, Endur'd the Cross, despising the Shame, and is set down at the Right-hand of the Throne of God. Thus was His Church to expect no Better Treatment than Her Great Founder, and Original, to pass thro' the same Fiery Trial, to be made Perfect through Sufferings, to be Militant here, in order to be Triumphant hereafter; and like Him, to be Crown'd with Thorns in this World, to Obtain a Crown of Glory in the Next. Not only to Encounter the Open Fury and Violence of Her Profess'd, and Inveterate Enemies; but (which was the Bitterest Part of Her Sufferings) like Her Saviour, to be Betray'd, and perfidiously Given up by Her Own False-hearted, and Insidious Apostles.

As the *Histories* of the Church in *All Ages*, are as 'twere but One Continu'd Ratification of this *Melancholly Truth*, made up of so many Mournful Narratives, of the *Unhappy Lives*, and *Disastrous Deaths* of *Saints, Martyrs, and Confessors*, who Bravely seal'd the Faith with Their Blood; so it is Exemplify'd in no One Instance more than in that *Primitive, and Heroick Champion* of Christianity, the *Author* of this *Epistle*. Wherein, for the *Wonder*, and *Emulation* of Posterity, He has Recorded a Long and *Frightful Catalogue* of those *Astonishing Calamities* He had underwent in the *Propagation* of the *Gospel*. Such Ample Satisfaction, did the *Pious Labours* of the *Convert*, make for the wicked *Persecution* of the *Jew*; when by a *Miraculous Turn* of *Providence*, the *Greatest Sinner* was Chang'd into the *Devoutest Saint*, and the most *Zealous Bigot* against, into the most *Resolute Sufferer* for, Religion. Yet however this *Great Apostle* might have Attain'd so Extraordinary a Degree of *Merit*, as to *Out-shine* all that *Noble Army* of *Martyrs*, which Adorn the *Bloody Kalendar* of the Church; nay, as He Expresses it, *to come never a whit short of the Greatest Apostles*, and as 'twere to *Vye Characters* with the very *Chosen* of the *Son of God*; Does it not seem a little to carry the *Air of Ostentation*, and *Vain-glory*, thus to Claim the *Pre-eminence*, and *Supremacy*, and to Boast himself in that *Pompous Shew* of *Services* that He had done for *God*, and the Church? But We shall easily *Reconcile* the *Apostle*, and the *Orator*, and find no Imputation upon his *Modesty*, if we Consider the *Occasion* of it. He had (as He informs Us) with much *Pains*, and *Expence*, Planted Christianity in *Corinth*, where He had no sooner by a *Miraculous Ministry* Establish'd it, but several *False Apostles*, and *Seducers*, were in his Absence Crept into the Church, to *Vitiate*, and *Corrupt* his *New Profelytes*, under the Pretence of *More Purity*, and *Holiness*, (like

Our *Modern Sectarists*) to raise a *Schism* amongst 'em, and to Draw them off from the *Opinion* they had of *St. Paul*; by *Ridiculing* Him for his *Person*, and *Address*, as a Little *Unedifying*, *Ungifted Preacher*, of a weak *Bodily Presence*, and *Contemptible Speech*; thus *Wounding* the *Ministry*, through the *Sides* of the *Minister*. Such *Slights* and *Provocations*, certainly were a *sufficient* Ground for the *Apostle* to *Insist* upon his *Character*, lest the *Gospel* should *Suffer* by it: And with *Authority* to *Rebuke* the *Ingratitude* of the *Corinthians*, and *Vindicate* his *Dignity*, and *Transcendent Excellencies*, against the base *Lyes*, and *Calumnies* cast upon Him by such *False Apostles*, *Deceitful Workers*, *Transforming themselves into the Apostles of Christ*, like their *True Father the Devil*, *Transforming himself into an Angel of Light*. With what *Justice* then might He here stand upon the *Comparison*, when thus vilely *Run down*, by such *Wretched*, *Empty*, *Hypocritical Sophisters*? To *Appeal* to his *Spiritual Gifts*, and *Revelations*, and *Sufferings*, in *Competition* with such *Impudent*, *Boasting*, *Self-conceited Pretenders*, was the *Lowest Act* of *Humility*, and *Good-Nature*; to *Condescend* to *Dispute* with such as ought to be *Answer'd*, not with *Arguments*, but *Anathema's*! Yet behold the *Singular Modesty* of this *Great Apostle*! He cannot enter upon his own *Justification*, without much *Reluctance*, and a long *Apology* to introduce it. *I am become a Fool in Glorifying* (says He,) *but you have Compell'd Me to it. I speak as concerning Reproach, as tho' We had been Weak: Howbeit, wherein any is Bold, I speak foolishly, I am bold also. Are they Hebrews? so am I! Are They Israelites? so am I! Are They the Seed of Abraham? so am I! Are They Ministers of Christ? I speak as a Fool, I am more. In Labours more Abundant, in Stripes above Measure, in Prisons more Frequent, in Deaths often; of the Jews Fives Times receiv'd I Forty Stripes, save One. Thrice was I beaten with Rods, Once was I ston'd, Thrice I suffer'd Shipwreck, a Night and a Day have I been in the Deep. In Journeyings often, in Peril of Waters, in Perils of Robbers, in Perils by my Own Country-men, in Perils by the Heathen, in Perils in the City, in Perils in the Wilderness, in Perils in the Sea, in Perils amongst FALSE BRETHREN.* In this *Rhetorical Abridgment* of the *Sufferings*, and *Dangers* of his *Life*, there's a very *Observable Gradation*; the *Apostle* still *Rises* in his *Calamities*, and puts this *Last* as the *Highest Perfection* of his *Misery*, as that which made the *deepest Impression* upon his *Passions*, and what He bore with the *Greatest Resentment* and *Difficulty*. The many severe *Pains*, and *Tortures* inflicted on his *Body*, were *nothing to This*;
 nay

may, the Good-Nature, and Mercy of Highway-men, and Pagans, and even the Devouring Bosom of the Deep, were to be Preferr'd before, and sooner (it seems) to be Truſted to, than the more certainly Deſtructive, and Fallacious Bosom of a Treacherous, FALSE BROTHER.

I ſhall take the Expreſſion in its full Latitude, without confining it to the expreſs Deſign of the Place; tho' it were very Obvious to draw a Parallel here, betwixt the ſad Circumſtances of the Church of Corinth formerly, and of the Church of England at preſent; wherein Her Holy Communion has been Rent, and Divided by Faction, and Schiſmatical Impoſtors; Her Pure Doctrin has been Corrupted, and Deſt'd; Her Primitive Worſhip, and Diſcipline Prophan'd, and Abus'd; Her Sacred Orders Deny'd and Villify'd; Her Priests, and Profeſſors (like St. Paul) Calumniated, Miſrepreſented, and Ridicul'd; Her Altars, and Sacraments Proſtituted to Hypocrites, Deiſts, Socinians, and Atheiſts; and this done, I wiſh I could not ſay, without Diſcouragement, I am ſure with Impunity, not only by Our Profeſs'd Enemies, but which is worſe, by our Pretended Friends, and FALSE BRETHREN. But to proceed to the Matter before us: In my Diſcourſe upon theſe Words I ſhall endeavour,

- I. *First*, To ſhew in what *Senſe*, and upon what *Accounts* Men may be Denominated FALSE BRETHREN.
- II. *Secondly*, I will lay before you the Great PERIL, and Miſchief of ſuch, both in Church and State.
- III. *Thirdly*, I will ſet forth the Heinous Malignity, Enormous Guilt, and Folly of this Prodigious Sin.
- IV. *Laſtly*, As a Conſequence from the Whole, I will undertake to Evince what mighty Reason we have at all Times, and more eſpecially at preſent, to ſtick firmly to the Principles both of our Church and Conſtitution; and how much it concerns Us to Beware of all thoſe FALSE BRETHREN, that Deſert, or Betray them.

I. And *First*, I will ſhew you in what *Senſe*, and upon what *Accounts* Men may be Denominated FALSE BRETHREN. In order to which it will be Neceſſary to State the full Extent of the Nature of FALSE BROTHERHOOD.

This Term *Ψευδελεία* being of a Relative Signification, muſt Reſpect Men as conſidered under all Social Caſes, or as they are plac'd under ſuch Regards, and Circumſtances, as in Duty Oblige them both to

Think

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Think, Speak, and Act, with Truth, and Integrity, correspondent to their Inward Principles, and Outward Professions. And wherein they are found Deviating Wilfully from Either, by an Unreasonable Alteration of Judgment, by any Tacit Mental Reserve, or Equivocation, upon any Indirect Ends, or Designs, or Guiding their Expressions, and Actions contrary to these stated Rules, they are guilty of Falshood, both in Conscience and Practice, of a Breach of that Veracity, Justice and Trust that they owe to God, Themselves, and the World, and are properly what are stil'd in the Text FALSE BRETHREN. For whereas every Man that either *Believes, Speaks, or Acts Rationally*, must be suppos'd to have some *Standing-Ground, and Measure of Judgment*, settled upon some Grand, Primitive *Maxims of Truth*, both *Speculative and Practicall*, whether founded upon *Revelation, Reason, or Honour*, which are what we call any Man's *Principles* either in *Religion, Society, or Friendship*: If these *Fundamental Axioms* have with true Deliberation been *Sifted, and Weighed*, not only as to their *Intrinsic Nature, and Goodness*, but as to their *Outward Tendency, and Consequences*, they must appear, tho' not perhaps as *Infallible in Themselves*, yet with Respect to the *Person* so considering them, as *Demonstrative Truths*, as the *Light, and Oracles of God, and Reason*, set up in his *Breast*; by which He is always *Oblig'd to Direct, and Govern his Thoughts, Resolutions, and Actions*; and which if He *swerves from, Disowns, or Betrays* upon any *Sinister Motive* whatsoever (tho' after this Nice Search they should prove *Erroneous*) involve the Man in a very *Heinous Sin, Treacherously* acting against his *Judgment*, and giving the *Lye* both to his *Faith, his Reason, and his Knowledge*. This Matter being thus briefly *Premis'd*, it is Evident, that with *Regard* to the several *Objects* it is *Conversant* about, Men may in *Three Respects* be term'd Guilty of FALSE BROTHERHOOD.

1. *First, With Relation to God, the Church, or Religion. in which they hold Faith, or Communion.*
2. *Secondly, With Relation to the State, Government, or Society, of which they are Members.*
3. *Thirdly, With Relation to those Private Persons, with whom they have either Friendship, Correspondence, or Dealing.*

1. And *First, He is a FALSE BROTHER* with Relation to *God, Religion, or the Church in which He holds Communion*, that *Believes, Maintains, or Propagates* any *False, or Heterodox Tenet, or Doctrin*, Repugnant to the *Express Declarations of Scripture, and the Decrees, or Sense* of

of the Church, and Antiquity thereupon. For as in the *First Alone* are contain'd the *Essential Points*, and *Articles* of our most Holy Faith; so the *Primitive Expositions*, *Decisions*, and *Practice* of the *Ancient Writers* of the *Pure*, and *Uncorrupted Ages* of Christianity, must certainly be acknowledg'd the *Best*, and most *Authentic Comments* upon their *Meaning*. In *Opposition* to which, if any *Upstart Novelist*, or *self-conceited Enthusiast*, out of *Pride*, as setting *Himself* above these *Genuine Oracles of Truth*; or out of *Ignorance*, as being *Unacquainted* with the *Learning*, and *Records* of *Antiquity*; or out of *Perverseness*, scorning to submit his *Understanding* to the *Dictates*, or *Better Reason* of *Others*; or out of *Ambition*, and *Vain-glory*, as *Affecting* to be the *Head*, and *Leader* of some *New Sect*, or *Party*; (*All*, or *Either* of which have, and will be found for ever the *Parents* of *Heresy*.) and should Break in upon this Sacred *Depositum* of the Church; and should Attempt *Blasphemously* to *Corrupt* that *Inviolable Fountain* of *Truth*, with *Erroneous Conjectures*, and *Vain Philosophical Systems*; to *Prophane* and *Degrade* the *Holy Mysteries* of *Religion*, by *Absurd Interpretations*, and *Impudent Reasonings*; should we stick to call such a *Rebel* to *God*, and *Traitor* to his Church, a *FALSE BROTHER*? If a Man should Dare not only to *Revive*, but to *Justify* any *Execrable*, *Exploded Heresies*, as those of *Arrius*, and *Nestorius*, denying the *Hypostatical Union*, or the *Eternity* of the *Son of God*; or should affirm that *He was God in Man*, or that the *Godhead* was only *Locally* in his *Manhood*, as *God* was in the *Cloud*; or that should *Presume* to *Evacuate* the *Great Sanction* of the *Gospel*, the *Eternity* of *Hell-Torments*; or *Expound* any of the *Articles* of *Our Faith*, in such a *Loose*, and *Vagrant* way, as may suit 'em as well to a *Mahometan's* as a *Christian's Creed*; and to lay open all those *Sacred Boundaries* of the Church, to let in all *Sectarists*, and *Schismatics*, of whatsoever *Wild*, *Romantic*, or *Enthusiastic Notions*, so as to make the *House of God*, not only a *Den of Thieves*, but a *Receptacle* of *Legions of Devils*: Should we cover such a *False-Apostle* under the Sacred *Umbrage* of a *True Church-man*? In short, whosoever presumes to *Recede* the least *Tittle* from the *express Word* of *God*, or to explain the *Great Credenda* of *Our Faith* in *New-fangl'd Terms* of *Modern Philosophy*, must *Publish* a *New Gospel*, *Un-god* his *Saviour*, and *Destroy* his *Revelation*; and by unsettling the *Universal*, *Receiv'd Doctrin* of the Church, give up *Christianity* into *Scepticism*, and *Atheism*; and to speak the best of his *Character*, is *FALSE* both to his *God*, and his *Religion*, and shall be called hereafter, *The Least in the Kingdom of Heaven*,
how.

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how Great soever he may be in the Kingdoms here below. And as a Man may thus *Betray the Doctrin of his Church*, so is he no less FALSE to its *Interest*, that gives up any *Point* of her *Discipline*, and *Worship*. These are the *Exterior Fences* to Guard the *Internals* of *Religion*, without which they are left *Naked*, without *Beauty*, *Order*, or *Defence*. Should any Man, out of *Ignorance*, or *Prejudice*, to the *Ancient Rights*, and *Essential Constitution*, of the *Catholick Church*, Affirm, That the *Divine, Apostolical Institution of Episcopacy*, is a *Novel Doctrin*, not sufficiently Warranted by *Scripture*, and that 'tis indifferent whether the Church is Govern'd by *Bishops*, or *Presbyters*; Is not such an One an *Apostate* from his Own Orders? Let the Christian World be Judge, who best deserve the Name of *Church-Men*, those that strictly *Defend*, and *Maintain* the *Catholick Doctrins*, upon which the Church, as a *Society*, is *Founded*, or those who would *Barter* them for a *Mungril-Union* of All *Sects*? Those who *Zealously* support her *Mission*, which only can support her, or those who would *destroy* it, to take in *Schismatical Presbyters* without *Episcopal Ordination*, which would *Un-Church* the very Church, and *Annihilate* her *Constitution*? Is this the *Spirit*, and *Doctrin* of Our Holy Mother? To assert *Separation* from Her *Communion*, to be no *Schism*; or if it was, that *Schism* is no *Damnable Sin*; that *Occasional Conformity* is no *Hypocrisy*, but rather for the *Benefit* of the Church; that any one may be an *Occasional Conformist* with *Schismatics*, and yet not *Guilty* of *Schism*; that a *Christian* may serve God in any *Way* or *Congregation* of *Worship*, as well by *Extemporary Prayers*, as by a *Prescrib'd Form*, and *Liturgy*; that *Conformity* to the Church, and *Ecclesiastical Authority*, are no *Parts* of *Morality*, and a *Good Life*, which are only necessary to *Salvation*: That the *Orders* and *Ceremonies* of the Church, are only *Carnal, Arbitrary Ordinances*, to be *Dispens'd* with as Men please; both by *Clergy* and *Laity*; that the *Censures* and *Excommunications* of the Church, are mere *Bruta Fulmina*; *Canonical Obedience*, and *Absolution*, *Spiritual Tyranny*, and *Usurpation*; and in a Word, that the *Whole Body* of the *Worship*, and *Discipline* of the Church of *England*, is nothing else but *Priestcraft*, and *Popery* in *Masquerade*. If upon all Occasions to comply with the *Dissenters* both in *Public*, and *Private Affairs*, as *Persons* of *Tender Conscience*, and *Piety*, to promote their *Interests* in *Elections*, to *sneak* to 'em for *Places*, and *Preferment*, to *Defend Toleration*, and *Liberty of Conscience*, and under the Pretence of *Moderation*, to excuse Their *Separation*, and lay the Fault upon the *True Sons* of the Church, for carrying Matters too high; if to

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Court the *Fanatics* in Private, and to hear 'em with *Patience*, if not *Approbation*, Rail at and *Blaspheme* the Church, and upon occasion to *Justify* the King's Murder; If to *Flatter* both the Dead and the Living in their *Vices*, and to tell the World, that if they have *Wit*, and *Money* enough, they need no *Repentance*, and that only *Fools* and *Beggars* can be *Damn'd*; If these, I say, are the *Modish*, and *Fashionable* *Criteria* of a *True Church-Man*, God deliver *Us All* from such **FALSE BRETHREN**!

There is another sort of them who are for a *Neutrality in Religion*, who really are of *None*, but are a *secret* sort of *Reserv'd Atheists*, who always pretend to be of the Church, Join in the *Herd*, and will sometimes frequent Our *Publick Communion*, as long as the *Government* appears on Our side; but if any thing is to be got by it, can with as safe a *Conscience* slide privately into a *Conventicle*, and look as *Demure* as the *styeft Saint* amongst 'em. They are equally of *All*, and of *No Communion*, they are the *Gallio's* that care for none of these Things; They tell us they are for the *Religion Establish'd by Law*, but no longer than 'tis so; they can see neither *Sin*, nor *Danger* in that *Ecclesiastical Bugbear*, as they call *Schism*, yet talk very loud about *Union*, *Comprehension*, and *Moderation*; by all which *Cantering Expressions*, they mean nothing but getting *Money*, and *Preferment*, by holding in with Persons of all *Parties*, and *Characters*, Halting betwixt a Diversity of *Opinions*, and *Reconciling God*, and *Belial* for *Gain*. To these we may add those who either out of *Fear*, or *Complaisance*, can tamely, and without *Vindication*, hear their *God* and *Religion* *Blasphem'd* and *Abus'd*. But there is another sort of **FALSE BRETHREN**, who set up for a greater *Perfection of Piety* than their Neighbours, who like their Originals, the *Pharisees* in the Gospel, are always *Pleading their Merits* before *God*, and the *World*, with an *Ostentation of Sanctity*, in comparison with their *Profane Brethren*, with a *Stand off*, for *I am Holier than Thou*! These are the *Saints*, that under the Pretence of *Conscience*, shall Commit the most *Abominable Impieties*, and *Justify Murder*, *Sacrilege*, and *Rebellion*, by Texts of Scripture. There are yet another sort of **FALSE BRETHREN**, of a quite *Opposite Character* to these, who wish well to the *Church of England*, and really Believe her Constitution in *Doctrine*, *Discipline*, and *Worship*; the Best, and Purest in the *Christian World*; and when either their *Tongues*, *Hands*, or *Purses* are wanting in her Defence, are ready to *Sacrifice* their *Persons*, and *Estates* in Her *Vindication*. These indeed are *Noble*

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Qualifications, and 'tis pity so Good a Character should want any thing to *Compleat* it. And to turn the Words of our *Blessed Saviour* to the *rich Man*, *Tet One thing thou lackest*, thy Zeal is to be shewn *In*, as well as *For*, the Communion of the *Church*, in obeying Her *Precepts*, as well as *Defending Her Rights*. In all these Cases there is a Serious and Deliberate Act of *Treachery* against *Conscience* and *Conviction*, a Base Forfeiture of that *Spiritual Allegiance* We owe to God, and Our Church, as a *Sacred Body*, and *Fraternity*, that ought to Preserve *Inviolable Unity*, professing *One Faith*, *One Baptism*, *One God*, and *Saviour* of Us All.

2. But *Secondly*, Men may be Denominated FALSE BRETHREN, with Relation to the *State*, *Government*, or *Society* of which they are Members. The Constitutions of most *Governments* differing according to their several *Frames*, and *Laws*, upon which they are Built, and Founded, it is Impossible to lay down any *One Universal Rule*, as the Scheme and Measure of *Obedience*, that may square to every one of them. Only this Maxim in General, I presume, may be *Establish'd* for the Safety, Tranquility, and Support of *All Governments*, that no *Innovation* whatsoever should be allow'd in the *Fundamental Constitution* of any State, without a very Pressing, nay, Unavoidable Necessity for it; and whosoever singly or in a private Capacity should attempt it, is Guilty of the *Highest Misdemeanour*, and is an Enemy to that *Politick Body* of which he is a Member. To apply this Maxim to *Our Government*, in which the Truth of it will very evidently appear. Our Constitution both in *Church* and *State*, has been so admirably Contriv'd, with that *Wisdom*, *Weight*, and *Sagacity*, and the *Temper*, and *Genius* of each, so exactly Suited, and Modell'd to the *mutual support*, and *assistance* of One another, that 'tis hard to say, whether the *Doctrins* of the *Church of England* contribute more to Authorize, and Enforce *Our Civil Laws*, or *Our Laws* to Maintain, and Defend the *Doctrins* of *Our Church*. The Natures of Both are so nicely Correspondent, and so happily Intermixt, that 'tis almost Impossible to offer a *Violation* to the *One*, without *Breaking* in upon the *Body* of the *Other*. So that in all those Cases before mention'd, whosoever Presumes to Innovate, Alter, or Misrepresent any *Point* in the *Articles* of the *Faith* of our Church, ought to be Arraign'd as a *Traytor* to our *State*; *Heterodoxy* in the *Doctrines* of the *One*, Naturally producing, and almost *Necessarily Inferring Rebellion*, and *High Treason* in the *Other*, and consequently a *Crime* that concerns the *Civil Magistrate*,

strate, as much to Punish, and Restrain, as the Ecclesiastical. However this Assertion at first View may look like an *High flown Paradox*, the Proof of it will fully appear in a few *Instances*. The *Grand Security* of our Government, and the very *Pillar* upon which it stands, is founded upon the *steady Belief* of the *Subject's Obligation* to an *Absolute*, and *Unconditional Obedience* to the *Supreme Power*, in *All Things Lawful*, and the utter *Illegality* of *Resistance* upon any *Pretence* whatsoever. But this *Fundamental Doctrin*, notwithstanding its *Divine Sanction* in the *Express Command* of *God in Scripture*, and without which, it is impossible any Government of any *Kind*, or *Denomination* in the World should subsist with *Safety*, and which has been so long the *Honourable* and *Distinguishing Characteristic* of *Our Church*, is now, it seems, quite *Exploded*, and *Ridicul'd* out of *Countenance*, as an *Unfashionable*, *Superannuated*, nay (which is more wonderful) as a *Dangerous Tenet*, utterly *Inconsistent* with the *Right, Liberty and Property*, of the *PEOPLE*; who, as our *New Preachers*, and *New Politicians* teach us, (I suppose by a *New and Unheard of Gospel*, as well as *Laws*) have in *Contradiction* to *Both*, the *Power Invested* in *Them*, the *Fountain and Original*, of it, to *Cancel* their *Allegiance* at pleasure, and call their *Sovereign* to account for *High Treason* against his *Supream Subjects* forsooth; nay to *Dethrone* and *Murther* Him for a *Criminal*, as they did the *Royal Martyr* by a *Judiciary Sentence*. And what is almost *Incredible*, presume to make their *Court* to their *Prince*, by maintaining such *Anti-monarchical Schemes*. But, *God be Thanked!* neither the *Constitution* of our *Church* or *State*, is so far *Alter'd*, but that by the *Laws of Both*, (still in *Force*, and which I hope for ever will be) these *Damnable Positions*, let 'em come either from *Rome*, or *Geneva*, from the *Pulpit*, or the *Press*, are condemn'd for *Rebellion*, and *High-Treason*. Our *Adversaries* think they effectually stop our *Mouths*, and have *Us* *Sure and Unanswerable* on this *Point*, when they urge the *Revolution* of *this Day* in their *Defence*. But certainly *They* are the *Greatest Enemies* of *That*, and *His Late Majesty*, and the most *Ungrateful* for the *Deliverance*, who endeavour to cast such *Black*, and *Odious Colours* upon *Both*. How often must they be told, that the *

* His Highness Declares, in *Opposition* to those who give out, That We do intend to *CONQUER* and *ENSLAVE* these *NATIONS*, that we have thought fit to add a few *Words* to *Our Declaration*; "It is not to be imagin'd, that either those who have invited Us, or those who are already come to *Assist* Us, can Joyn in a *WICKED ATTEMPT* OF *CONQUEST*, to make void their *Own Lawful Titles* to their *Honours, Estates, and Inherests*." See the *Prince of Orange's Declaration*. Dr. Kennet's *History of the Four Last Reigns*, p. 493.

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King Himself solemnly *Disclaim'd* the *Least Imputation of Resistance* in His *Declaration*; and that the *Parliament* declar'd, That they set the *Crown* on His *Head*, upon no other *Title*, but that of the *Vacancy of the Throne*? And did they not *Unanimously* condemn to the *Flames*, (as it justly *Deserv'd*) that *Infamous Libel*, that would have *Pleaded* the *Title of Conquest*, by which *Resistance* was suppos'd? so *Tender* were they of the *Regal Rights*, and so *averse* to infringe the least *Tittle* of our *Constitution*! We see how ready these *Incendiaries* are to take the least *Umbrage*, to charge their own *Cursed Tenets* on the *Church of England*, to *Derive their Guilt* upon it, and *Quit Scores* with it for *Their Iniquity*! Thus do they endeavour to draw *Comparisons*, and to *Justify* the *Horrid Actions* and *Principles* of *Forty One* which have been of late *Years*, to the *Scandal* of Our *Church*, and, *Nation*; so *Publickly* *Defended*, not only by the *Agents* and *Writers* of the *Republican Faction*, but by some that have the *Confidence* to *Style* themselves *Sons*, and *Presbyters* of the *Church of England*; who in open *Defiance* of the most *porempitory Declarations* of *God* in *Scripture*, (never to be evaded by any *Shifts* or *Misinterpretations*) and the *Universal Doctrine*, and *Expositions* of the *Catholic Church* upon it in *all Ages*, with the *express Testimony*, and *Concurrence* of Our *Church*, from its *Reformation* down to the *Present Times*, *Corroborated* with the *Sense* of Our *Legislature*, so *unexceptionably Confirm'd* in Our *Laws*, *Dare*, in *Despight* and *Contempt* of all this *Evidence*, manifestly *Defend* the *Resistance* of the *Supream Power*, under a *New fang'd Notion* of *Self Defence*; the only *Instance* they shew of *Shame*, that they dare not *Y E T* maintain *Rebellion* by its *Proper Name*. Yet, if those *silly Pretences*, and *weak Excuses* for it alledg'd *deprive* any *Strength*, or *Reason* in them at all, they will equally serve to *justify* All the *Rebellions* that ever were or can be committed in the *World*. Now as the *Republicans* *Copy* after the *Papists* in most of their *Doctrines* and *Practices*, I would fain know in this *Particular* the *Difference* lies, betwixt the *Power* *Granted* to, (as 'tis suppos'd) *Unanimously Invested*, but from what *Commission* *God* knows,) in the *Papists*, to *Judge* and *De throne* their *Sovereigns*, for any cause *deem'd* fit; or a no less *Usurped Power* of the *Pope*, to *solve* the *Oaths* from their *Allegiance*, and *dispose* of *Scepters*, and *Diadems* in *any* *Princes*, whenever he thinks it his *Interest* to pluck them from their *Exalted Heads*. *Comparisons* are generally *Odious*; but a *Comparison* of our *Kingdom*, whose *Aversion* to *Popery*, I hope,

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is not doubted, I mean the * Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Sarum, has been bold Judiciously to Determin, even on the *Papist's* Side in this Case, That if such a *Deposing* Power is to be intrusted in *Mortals Hands*, less *Inconveniencies* will ensue in placing it in *One*, than in *Many*, tho' God forbid it ever should be Ldg'd in any other than that of God himself, the *Original* of all Power, from whom it proceeds, and to whom it must Return, the *King of Kings*, *Lord of Lords*, and *ONLY Ruler of Princes*. So that these *Romantick wild* Notions will carry Us into something worse (if 'tis possible) than *Popery* itself; more *Fatal* to the *Rights* and *Interests* of the *Crown*, and the *Welfare*, and *Tranquillity* of Our *Constitution*, which can never be *Safe* under such *Precarious Dependencies*, and *Despotic Imaginations*. A Prince indeed in another Sense, will be the *Breath of his Subject's Nostrils*, to be Blown in, or out, at their *Caprice*, and *Pleasure*, and a worse Vassal than even the meanest of his Guards. Such *Villainous* and *Seditious Principles* as these, Demand a *Confutation* from that *Government* they so insolently *Threaten*, and *Arraign*, and which are only *Proper* to be *Answer'd* by that *Sword* they would make our *Princes* bear in *Vain*, by the *So-long-call'd* for *Censure* of an *Ecclesiastical Synod*, and the *Correction* of a *Provok'd* and *Affronted Legislature*; to whose *Strict Justice*, and undeserv'd *Mercy*, I commit both *them* and Their *Authors*. Only give me leave to dismiss 'em with a *Remark* of the *Pious* and *Learned Bishop Andrews*, upon some of their *F A S E B R E T H R E N* in his Time. * *What* (says that Good Prelate) *is now become of those Words of God, Touch not mine Anointed? Are we not fallen into Strange Times, that Men dare thus Print and Publish, yea, even Preach, and Proclaim their Sins; even those sinful and shameless Positions, to the Eyes, and Ears of the Whole World? Whereby God's Anointed are Endanger'd; Man's Souls are Poyson'd, Christian Religion is Blasphem'd as a Murderer of*

* Less Disorder may be apprehended from the *Pretensions* of the *Roman Bishops*, than from these *Maxims*, that put the *Power of Judging and Controlling the Magistrate* in the *PEOPLE's* Hands, which opens a *Door to Endless Confusions*, and indeed, sets every *Private Person* upon the *Throne*, and introduceth an *Anarchy*, which will never admit of *Order*, and *Justice*; whereas, Those who have but *One PRETENDER* over Them, could more easily deal with Him, and more *Vigorously RESIST* Him. [*Vindication of the Church of Scotland Printed at Glasgow, 1673. p. 68, 69.*]

* Sermon 3. on the Conspiracy of the *GOWRIES*, Preach'd before the King at *Holburn* Aug. 5. 1610. p. 808.

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her Own Kings; God in his Charge is openly Contradicted, and Men made Believe, they shall go to Heaven in breaking Gods Commandments. What could have been spoken with a more Prophetical Spirit, of these filthy Dreamers, These Presumptuous and Self will'd Men, Despisers of Dominion, and Government, who are not afraid to speak Evil of Dignities, who wrest the Word of God to their Own, and their deluded People's Perdition, and think to Consecrate even the worst of Sins, with what is almost Analogous to the Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost! These FALSE BRETHREN in Our Government, do not Singly, and in Private spread their Poyson, but (what is lamentable to be spoken) are suffer'd to combine into Bodies, and Seminaries, wherein Atheism, Deism, Tritheism, Socinianism, with all the Hellish Principles of Fanaticism, Regicide, and Anarchy, are openly Profess'd and Taught, to Corrupt and Debauch the Youth of the Nation, in all Parts of it, down to Posterity, to the Present Reproach, and Future Extirpation of Our Laws, and Religion. Certainly the Toleration was never intended to Indulge, and Cherish such Monsters, and Vipers in our Bosom, that scatter Their Pestilence at Noon-day, and will Rend, Distract, and Confound, the firmest and Best settl'd Constitution in the World. In short, as the English Government can never be Secure on any other Principles, but strictly those of the Church of England, so I will be bold to say, where any Part of it is Trusted in Persons of any Other Notions, They must be False to Themselves, if They are True to Their Trusts; or if They are True to Their Opinions, and Interests, must Betray That Government They are Enemies to upon Principle. Indeed, We must do 'em that Justice, to confess, That since the Sectarists have found out a way (which their Fore fathers, God knows, as Wick-ed as they were, would have Abhorr'd) to swallow not only Oaths, but Sacraments, to Qualify themselves to get into Places, and Preferments: these Sanctify'd Hypocrites can put on a shew of Loyalty, and seem tolerably Easy in the Government, if they can Engross the Honours and Profits of it: But let Her Majesty reach out Her Little Finger to touch their Loyals, and these Sworn Adversaries to Passive Obedience, and the Royal Family, shall fret themselves, and Curse their Queen, and their God, and shall look upwards. And so much for Our Political FALSE BRETHREN, till I come to speak with 'em again by and by. I proceed.

3. In the Third Place, to a more Inferior Species of Them, that are in a Lower Sphere, namely, Those who in their Private Capacities,

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are *FALSE* either in their *Friendship*, *Correspondence*, or *Dealing*; But these *Sins of Unfaithfulness*, as the *Psalmist* calls them, being of so *Copious*, and *Extensive* a Nature, and Respecting the *Private Concerns* of *Humane Life*, I shall only trouble You with enumerating some of the *General Instances* of them: Such as are, *Betraying Our Friend* in his *Secrets*, *Deserting* him in his *Misfortunes*, in not *Defending* his *Reputation*, when *falsly Accus'd*, in an *Obsequious Compliance* with Him in any *Indirect*, or *Dishonourable Measures*, in a *Nauseous Flattery* of his *Follies*, or *Vices*, in *Permitting* him in any *Error*, without *Admonition*, and in giving him *wrong Advice*, and not leading him out of it. Such are also with regard to Our *Neighbour*, the *Concealing*, or *Misrepresenting* any *Truth* that he is *Concern'd to know*, *Playing* upon his *Faith* with *doubtful* and *ambiguous Insinuations*, with *Double Equivocations*, and *Diffimulatory Expressions*, an *Actual Breach* of *Word*, *Promise*, or *Profession*, *Clandestine Undermining* by *Circumvention*, *Fraud*, or *Craft*, *Back biting*, and *secretly Slandering*, *Propagating Scandal*, and *Bearing False Witness*, and *Partaking* several ways in his *Sins*; which are all the *Characteristicks* of an *Insidious*, *Treacherous*, and *False-hearted Knave*. But these *Vices* being of a *Private Consideration*, I hasten to the next *General Head* propos'd, *Namely*,

II. Secondly, *To lay before You the Great Peril, and Mischiefs of these FALSE BRETHREN in Church and State*; which I shall endeavour to do, by Proving that They *Weaken, Undermine, and Betray in Themselves*, and *Encourage*; and put it in the *Power* of Our *Profess'd Enemies*, to *Overturn*, and *Destroy* the *Constitution* and *Establishment* of *Both*.

I. And First, as to the *Church*. But here it is very *Necessary* to *Premise*, That by the *Church of England*, We are to understand the *True Genuine Notion* of it, as it stands *Contra distinguish'd* in it's *Establish'd Doctrine, Discipline, and Worship*, from all Other *Churches*, and *Schismaticks*, who would *Obtrude* upon Us, a *Wild, Negative Idea* of a *NATIONAL CHURCH*, so as to *Incorporate Themselves* into the *Body*, as *True Members* of it; Whereas 'tis evident that this *Latitudinarian, Heterogeneous Mixture* of all Persons of what *Different Faith* soever, *Uniting in Protestancy*, (which is but *One Single Note* of the *Church of England*) would render it the most *Absurd, Contradictory, and Self-Inconsistent Body* in the *World*. This *Spurious, and Villainous Notion*, which will take in *Jews, Quakers, Mahometans,*
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and any thing as well as *Christians*, as ridiculously incongruous as 'tis, may be first Observ'd, as One of those Prime, *Popular Engines*, Our FALSE BRETHREN, have made Use of to *Undermine* the very *Essential Constitution* of Our Church; which as it stands *Guarded* with its Own *Sacred Fences*, with Her only *True Sons* in Her *Bosom*, may Defy all the *Malice* of the *Devil*, and Her *Enemies*, to *Prevail against Her*. But such is Her *hard Fortune*, Her Worst *Adversaries* must be let into Her *Bowels*, under the *holy Umbrage* of *Sons*, who neither *Believe Her Faith*, Own Her *Mission*, submit to Her *Discipline*, or Comply with Her *Liturgy*. And to admit this *Religious Trojan Horse*, big with *Arms*, and *Ruin*, into Our *Holy City*, the *Streight Gate* must be laid quite *Open*, Her *Walls*, and *Inclosures* pull'd down, and an *High-Road* made in upon Her *Communion*, and this *Pure Spouse of Christ* *Prostituted* to more *Adulterers* than the *Scarlet Whore* in the *Revelations*. Her *Articles* must be Taught the *Confusion* of all *Senses*, *Nations*, and *Languages*, to render Her a *Babel*, and *Desolation*. This was indeed the *Ready way* to *Fill the House of God*, but with what? with *Pagan Beasts*, instead of *Christian Sacrifices*, with such *Unhallow'd*, *Loathsome*, and *Detestable* Guests, as would have Driv'n out the *Holy Spirit* of God with *Indignation*. This *Pious Design* of making Our *House of Prayer* a *Den of Thieves*, of *Reforming* Our *Church* into a *Chaos*, is well known to have been *Attempted* several times in *This Kingdom*, and lately *within Our memory*, When all Things seem'd to *Favour* it, but that *Good Providence*, which so happily *Interpos'd*, against the *Ruin* of Our *Church*, and *Blasted* the *Long-projected Scheme* of these *Ecclesiastical Achitophels*. A *Scheme* so *Monstrous*, so *Romantic*, and *Alsfurd*, that 'tis hard to say, whether it had more of *Villany*, or *Folly* in it, and which even the *Sectarists* of all Sorts (who will not be satisfy'd with any thing less than *Sovereignty*) *Exploded*, and *Laugh'd at*, as *Ridiculous*, and *Impracticable*. It was doubtless a *Wise* way to *Exemplify* Our *Brotherly Love*, and *Charity* for the *Souls* of Men, to put both *Them*, and *Our selves* into a *Gulph* of *Perdition*, by throwing up the *Essentials* of Our *Faith*, and the *Uniformity* of Our *Worship*. But since this *Model* of an *Universal Liberty*, and *Coalition* fail'd, and these FALSE BRETHREN could not carry the *Conventicle* into the *Church*, they are now *Resolv'd* to bring the *Church* into the *Conventicle*, which will more *Plausibly*, and *Slily* Effect Her *Ruin*. What could not be gain'd by *Comprehension*, and *Toleration*, must be brought about by *Moderation*, and *Occasional Conformity*; that is, what

what they could not do by *Open Violence*, they will not fail by *Secret Treachery*, to *Accomplish*. If the *Church* can't be *Pull'd down*, it may be *blown up*; and no matter with these Men *How 'tis Destroy'd*, so that it is *Destroy'd*. Now let Us, I beseech You in the Name of God, fairly consider what must be the *Consequence* of this *Scandalous Fluctuation*, and *Trimming* betwixt the *Church*, and *Dissenters*, both in *Conscience*, and *Prudence*. Does not this *Innovating* in, *Giving up*, or *Receding from*, any *One Point*, or *Article* in our *Faith*, *Violate*, and *Affect* the *Whole Frame*, and *Body* of it? Can we either *Add to*, or *Diminish from*, the *Least Jot* of our *Religion*? Are we to take it's *Constitution* as our *Saviour*, and his *Apostles Deliver'd* it down to Us; or have we *Authority* to *Curtail*, *Mangle*, or *Alter* it, to *Suit* it to the *Pride*, *Humours*, *Caprice*, and *Qualm-sick Stomachs*, of *Obstinate*, *Moody*, *Wayward*, and *Self-conceited Hypocrites*, and *Enthusiasts*? Will not such a *Base*, and *Time serving Compliance* give the *Enemies* of *Our Church* an *Occasion* of *Blaspheming* Her as *Weak*, and *Inconstant*? Will it not *Argue* the *Illegality* of Her *Ordinances*, and *Laws*, or that they were too *Rigid*, and wanted an *Abatement*? Will not this *Harden*, *Encourage*, nay *Justify* the *Dissenters* in their *Opinion* of their *Separation*, when they see such large *Allowances*, and *Concessions* made in it's *Favour*? What *Dishonourable*, and *Unworthy Opinions* must they entertain of the *Priests* of that *Church*, who can *Sacrifice* their most *Solemn Declarations*, and *Oaths* to *Complaisance*, and *Preferment*? What would be the *End* of All this, but to *Establish* *Heresy*, and *Erastianism* upon the *Ruins* of our *Faith*, and *Discipline*? Would not this *Spiritual Legerdmain*, this *Fallacious Tricking*, and *Double-dealing*, *Bradicate* all the *Principles* of *Truth*, and *Honesty*, or *Piety* out of Men's *Minds*, make 'em *Unconcern'd*, whether there is *Any*, or *No Religion*, Run 'em into an *Universal Scepticism*, and *Infidelity*, and make 'em All *Atheists*, or *Papists*? For when they had *Turn'd about*, and *about*, and were grown *Giddy* with *Change*, they would either *Give up* *Themselves* to the *Disbelief* of all things, or *Rest* their *Weary'd Judgments* in the *Authority* of that *Church* alone, that can *Delude* 'em with the *Specious Pretences* of an *Infallible Guide*. Thus our *FALSE BRETHREN*, as the *Jews* did our *Blessed Saviour*, *Crucify* his *Church* *Betwixt Thieves*; and as they committed that *Execrable Villany* under a *Pretended Fear* lest the *ROMANS* should come and take away their *Place*, and *Nation*, which by that very *Fact* They brought upon *Themselves*: So these Men, out of a *Fictitious Fear* lest the *Modern ROMANS* should come, and De-

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stroy Our Church, are Working that Ruin they pretend to Avoid, and under a False Zeal of Keeping out Popery, are Themselves infallibly Bringing in That very POPERY into Our Kingdom, with which they so Falsly, and ungratefully endeavour to Attaint the Church of England, the Greatest Bulwark, and only Safe-Guard against Popery in the whole World! Though it were highly to be wish'd that those Excellent Laws made for Her Defense and Security, were at present put strictly into Execution; for the Roman-Catholic Agents, and Missionaries that swarm about this Great City, as it were in Defiance and Contempt of them, were never more Busy in making Proselytes to their Superstition, and Idolatry, and Perverting and Debauching Her Majesty's Subjects in every Corner of our Streets.

2. Thus we see how Dangerous these FALSE BRETHREN are to Our Church, which is so Great, and Considerable a Branch of our Civil Constitution, that the Support of Our Government depends upon it's Welfare, and what Affects That, must strike at the Foundation of Our State; Innovations in Either tending to the Subversion of their Laws, and the Unsettling the Establishment, and consequently to Anarchy, and Confusion. But to draw this Argument more home to the Point; I will endeavour to Prove, that our FALSE BRETHREN are as Destructive of our Civil, as Ecclesiastical Rights. For first, it cannot be deny'd, that though They do submit to the Government, their Obedience is Forc'd, and Constrain'd, and therefore so Treacherous, and Uncertain, as never to be Trusted, because proceeding upon no Principle, but meer Interest and Ambition; and whenever That changes, their Allegiance must follow it; and therefore (to use their Own Expression) are as much Occasional Loyalists to the State, as They are Occasional Conformists to the Church; that is, They will Betray either, when ever it is in their Power, and They think it for their Advantage. FALSEHOOD always implies Treachery; and whether That is a Qualification for any One to be Trusted, especially with the Guardianship of our Church, or Crown, let our Governors consider. And certainly nothing but the most Sottish Infatuation, can so far Blind both our Eyes, and our Judgments, as to make us Believe, that the same Causes should not produce the same Effects, and that the same Latitudinarian, and Republican Notions should not bring forth the same Rebellious and Pernicious Consequences. They are pleas'd now to soften their Lewd Principles, and cover their Dangerous Tenets with the Name of Speculative Opinions; but what Fatal Practices they have created, and whether these

these *Seditious Thoughts* will not again *Exemplify* themselves in the same *Bloody Actions*; We shall be *Convinc'd*, to our Sorrow, if We don't *Apprehend*. That the *Old Leaven* of their *Fore-fathers* is still *Working* in their *Present Generation*, and that this *Traditional Poyson* still remains in this *Brood of Vipers*, to *Sting* Us to *Death*, is sufficiently *Visible*, from the *Dangerous Encroachments* They now make upon our *Government*, and the *Treasonable Reflections* They have *Publisb'd* on Her *Majesty*, God blefs Her! Whole *Hereditary Right* to the *Throne*, They have had the *Impudence* to *Deny*, and *Cancel*, to make Her a *Creature of their own Power*; and that by the same *Principles* They plac'd a *Crown* upon Her, They tell Us, *They*, (that is, the *Mob*) may *Re-assume* it at their *Pleasure*. Nay, now They have *Advanc'd* themselves from the *Religious Liberty* Our *Gracious Sovereign* has *Indulg'd* them, to *Claim* a *Civil Right*, as they *Term* it, and to *Justle* the *Church* out of Her *Establishment*, by *Houisting* their *Toleration* into it's Place; and to convince Us what *alone* will *satisfy* 'em, insolently *Demand* the *Repeal* of the *Corporation*, and *Test Acts*, as an *Ecclesiastical Usurpation*, which indeed under Her *Majesty* (whom God long *Preserve* for it's *Comfort* and *Support*!) is the only *Security* the *Church* has to *Depend* upon. And which they have so far *Eluded* by their *Abominable Hypocrisy*, as to have *Undermind'd* Her *Foundation*, and *Indanger* the *Government*, by filling it with it's *Profess'd Enemies*. These *Charges* are so *Flagrant*, and *Undeniable*, that a *Man* must be very *Weak*, or *something worse*, that thinks, or pretends, the *Dissenters* are to be *Gain'd*, or won over by any other *Grants*, and *Indulgences*, than giving up our *Whole Constitution*: And He that *recedes* the *least Tittle* from it, to *satisfy*, or *Ingratiate* with these *Clamorous*, *Insatiable*, and *Church-Devouring Malignants*, knows not what *Spirit* They are of, or He ought to shew who is a *True Member* of Our *Church*. Have They not ever since their first *Unhappy Plantation* in this *Kingdom*, by the *Intercession* of That *False Son* of the *Church*, *Bishop Grindall*, always *Improv'd*, and *Rise* upon their *Demands* in the *Permission* of the *Government*? Inso-much that *Queen Elizabeth*, that was *Deluded* by that *Perfidious Prelate* to the *Toleration* of the *Genevian Discipline*, found it such an *Headstrong*, and *Encroaching Monster*, that in *Eight Years*, She foresaw it would *Endanger* the *Monarchy*, as well as the *Hierarchy*: And like a *Queen of True Resolution*, and *Pious Zeal* for Both pronounc'd, That such were the *Restless Spirits* of that *FACTIOUS People*, that no *Quiet* was to be *Expected* from them, till they were utterly *Sup-*

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press'd: Which, like a Prudent Princess, She did by Wholesome Severities, that the Crown for many Years sat Easy, and Flourishing on Her Head. And had Her Successor, King James, but follow'd Her Wise Politicks, his Son had never fall'n a Martyr to their Fury, nor any of his Unhappy Offspring suffer'd those Disastrous Calamities, which made the Royal Family one continu'd Sacrifice to their Malice. And what better could have been expected from Miscreants, Begot in Rebellion, Born in Sedition, and Nurs'd up in Faction? I would not here be Misunderstood, as if I intended to cast the least Invidious Reflection upon that Indulgence the Government has condescended to give 'em, which I am sure all those that wish well to our Church are very ready to Grant to Consciences truly Scrupulous; let Them Enjoy it in the full Limits the Law has Prescrib'd. But let them also move within their Proper Sphere, and not grow Eccentrick, and like Comets that Burst their Orb, Threaten the Ruin and Downfal of Our Church, and State. Indeed they tell us they have Relinquish'd the Principles, as well as the Sins of their Fore-fathers: If so, why do they not Renounce their Schism, and come Sincerely into Our Church? Why do they Pelt Her with more Blasphemous Libels, and Scurrilous Lampoons, than were ever Publish'd in Oliver's Usurpation? Have they not lately Villainously Divided us with Knavish Distinctions of High, and Low-Church Men? Are not the Best Characters they can give Us, those of Papists, Jacobites, and Conspirators? And what do they mean by all this Insidious Cant, but by False Insinuations, and raising Groundless Jealousies, and Fears, to Imbroil the Publick, and to bring it into that Confusion, they are Suggesting upon Us? Whether these Men are not Contriving, and Plotting our utter Ruin, and whether all those FALSE BRETHREN, that fall in with these Measures, and Designs, do not contribute basely to it, I leave every Impartial Man that wishes the Welfare of Our Constitution to Determine; And if we find this true in Fact, What Reason have we to think, but that the National Sins are Ripen'd up to a full Maturity, to call down Vengeance from Providence on a Church and Kingdom, thus Debauch'd in it's Principles, and Corrupted in it's Manners, and instead of the True Faith, Discipline, and Worship, given over to all Licentiousness, both in Opinion, and Practice, to all Sensuality, Hypocrisy, Lewdness, and Atheism? And now are We under no Danger in these Deplorable Circumstances? Must We Lull Ourselves under this sad Repose, and in such a Stupid, Lethargic Security, Embrace Our Ruin?

Ruin? When *Elisba* the Great Prophet of God, was Surrounded with an Host of Enemies, that sought for his Life, his Blind Servant beheld not the Peril his Master was in, till his Eyes were Open'd by Miracle, and he found himself in the midst of Horses and Chariots of Fire. I pray God We may be out of Danger! but we may remember the King's Person was Voted to be so, at the same Time that his Murtherers were Conspiring his Death. What I have thus freely spoken, I hope is as much without Offence, as it proceeds from a Good Intention, and a Tender Concern for Her Majesty's Person, and Government, and an hearty Zeal for the Honour and Safety of our Excellent Church, and Constitution. I entreat Your Patience,

III. Briefly to set forth the Heinous Malignity, Enormous Guilt, and Folly of this Prodigious Sin of FALSE-BROTHERHOOD.

1. And First, With Regard to God and Religion. It is a most Perfidious Apostacy from, and Reproach upon Both: It is no Less than Renouncing Our Allegiance to our Almighty Sovereign, an Open Denial, and Prostitution of Our most Holy Faith, and Church, upon which Crime God has Entail'd so many Dreadful Threats, and Anathema's. It is Betraying Our most Solemn Oaths, proving False to Our Sacred Trust, and Commission, Administring to, and Indulging Men in the most Mortal Sins, Endangering both our Own, and the Salvation of that Dear Flock, for which Christ Dy'd, by Exposing it to the Corruptions of Heresy and Schism, the Impostures of False-Apostles, and the Deceit, and Malice of Wolves in Sheep's Cloathing. It is Deriving the highest Blasphemy, and Dishonour upon the Holy Spirit of God, thus to Prevaricate with his Immutable Oracles of Truth, in Wrestling 'em to maintain the most Diabolical Falshoods, and Errors, and making Veracity itself the Authour and Patronizer of Lyes. It is Forsaking Our Baptismal Covenant, Basely Deserting the Glorious Colours we are List-ed under, turning Refugees from our Saviour, and Adherents to his most Abjur'd Enemies. In a Word, to accomplish any wretched Secular Design, to Gratify their Pride, or Ambition, to Feed their Lust, or Avarice, to wreak their Spleen, or Revenge, out of Envy, or Disappointment, for a Little, Paultry Honour, Money, or Preferment. These FALSE BRETHREN will Renounce their Creed, and Read the Decalogue backward, be the very Reverse of Our Blessed Saviour (whom like their Primitive Pattern, they first sell, and then betray) Fall down and Worship the very Devil himself, for the Riches and Honours of this World.

2. Secondly, In Regard to the World. What a vast Scandal, and Offence

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Offence must it give to all Persons of *Piety*, and *Integrity*, to see Men of *Character*, and *Stations*, thus Shift and Prevaricate with their *Principles*, and Starting from their *Religion* upon any Occasion of *Difficulty*, or *Trial*, and like the *Disciples*, flying from, and forsaking our *Saviour*, when his Life lay at Stake? To see Men's *Opinions* sit as Loose about 'em as their Garments, to be put on, or off, for *Convenience*? What can *Unvary* Persons conclude from such *Tergiversation*, and *Hypocrisy*, but that all Religion is *State-Craft*, and *Imposture*? That All *Godliness* is *Gain*; and that the *Doctrines* of the Church lie not so much in Her *Articles*, as Her *Honours*, and *Revenues*? Without doubt, this *Modern Latitude*, and Infamous *Double dealing*, as it can proceed from nothing but the rankest *Atheism*, so it must Propagate it wheresoever it goes; and 'tis not to be Question'd, but that the *Wonderful Increase*, and *Impudent Appearance* of all *Sects* and *Heresies* in this Kingdom at present, beyond what was ever known in *Former Ages*, is chiefly to be attributed to it. But this *Crime* is as *Pernicious* to *Human Society*, as *Religion*; for it Destroys all *Common Honesty*, *Faith*, and *Credit* in the *World*, and in the place of it, sets up an *Universal Trade* of *Cousenage*, *Sharping*, *Disimulation*, and downright *Knavery*. For, what *Dependance* can there be upon a Man of *no Principles*? What *Trust* in *Equivocations*, *Evasions*, and *Lyes*? Nor indeed could any One be suppos'd so *Sottish*, as to place the least *Confidence* in these *Men*, did they not *Bait* their *Hook*, and *Cover* their *Treachery* with the Sacred and *Plausible Pretences* of *FRIENDSHIP*, whereby they are capable of doing much more *Mischief*, than a *barefac'd* and *profess'd Enemy*. In what moving and *Lively Colours* does the Holy Psalmist Paint out the *Crafty Insidiousness* of such wiley *Volpones*? *Wickedness*, (says he) *is therein*, *Deceit and Guile* go not out of their *Streets*. For it is not an *Open Enemy* that has done me this *Dis honour*, for then I could have born it: Neither was it mine *Adversary*, that did *Magnify* himself against me, for then peradventure I would have hid my self from him. But, it was even *Thou*! my *Companion*, my *Guide*, and mine own *Familier Friend*. We took sweet *Counsel* together, and walked in the *House of God* as *Friends*. There is no *Faithfulness* in their *Mouths*, their *inward Parts* are very *Wickedness*; their *Throats* are *Open Sepulchres*, and their *Words* are *smoother than Oil*, yet be they very *Swords*. Like *Joab*, they pretend to speak *Peaceably*, and smite Us *Mortally* under the *Fifth Rib*.

3. Thirdly, With Regard to a Man's Self, it is hard to Distinguish whether our FALSE BRETHREN prove themselves Guilty of
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more excessive *Knavery*, or *Folly*. For whatever these *Cunning*, *Temporizing Politicians* may think, they will find, after all their *Shuffling*, and *Compliance*, that the *Plain Road* of *Truth*, *Honesty*, and *Integrity*, is both the most *Prudent*, as well as the *Safest Way* they can follow, and that the *Wisdom of this World* is as much *Foolishness* with *Men*, as 'tis with *God*. For certainly there is no *Sin* that so much *Disappoints* its *Own Ends* as *This* does. Perhaps the *Man* may Obtain the *Present Advantage*, He has in *Prospect*, by relinquishing his *Old Friends*, and *Principles*; but is ever such a *Mercenary Convert* receiv'd heartily into the *Bosom* of his *Former Enemies*? Or are *They* ever found so *Credulous*, and *Good natur'd*, as to *Forgive*, and *Believe* such an *Apostate Cordial* and *Sincere*, and fit to be *Trusted* in any *Matter of Weight*, or *Importance*, who has *Betray'd* his *Own Party* for the *Little*, *Sordid Lucre* of a *Place*, or *Preferment*? And is again ready to be *Retrogade*, whenever the *Wind* shall *Change*, and *Veer* about? Such a *FALSE BROTHER* may serve the *Present Turn* of his *Adversaries*, who may seem whilst they want the *TOOL*, to *Flatter*, and *Caress* him; but let such a *Turn-Coat* rest assur'd, He shall meet with *Hypocrisy*, for *Hypocrisy*; and since He is got upon the *Stage*, shall *Act his Part*, and be *Hiss'd off* when He has done? Such a *Wise Game* do our *Projectors* *Play*, they *Barter*, and *Betray* their *Friends*, only to *sell* themselves *Slaves* into the *Hands* of their *Enemies*, who shall *Treat* them with more *Insolence*, *Disdain*, and *Tyranny*, than *Honest Men* do with *Scorn*, and *Contempt*, if they don't go the *whole Lengths* of their *Party*, *stick at Nothing*, tho' never so *Impious*, and *Absurd*, and run from one *Extream* to a quite *Contrary*. Thus *Little*, thus *Base*, thus *Odious*, thus *Contemptible*, thus *Survile*, nay thus *Execrable* is the *Traitor*, and *Double-Dealer* in the *Sight*, not only of all *Honest Men*, but the most *Profess'd Knaves*, and *Hypocrites*! Who cannot but have a *Tacit Regard*, and *Veneration* for a *Man of Steadiness*, and *Probity*, that upon *All Occasions* is *True to Himself*, and his *Cause*, is above the *Threats*, as well as *Flatteries* of this *World*, still *Trusting* in his *God*, and his own *Integrity*, and *Justice*, *Despising* his *Interest*, or *Success*, and is under all *Circumstances* like that *God*, and *Religion* He *Believes* and *Serves*, without *Variableness*, or *Shadow of Change*, but is the same, to day, to morrow, and for ever. Farther, these *FALSE BRETHREN* cannot be more *Odious* to *God*, and *Man*, than they are to *Themselves*, who are always a *Self-Contradiction*, full of *Confusion*, and *Perplexity*, perpetually *Haunting* themselves, the *Worst of Demons*, maintaining an *Irreconcilable War* betwixt the *Outward* and

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and Inward Man, Conformists in Profession, Half-Conformists in Practice, and Non-Conformists in Judgment. Such a Mixture of Inconsistency, and Nonsense, that any one that has the least Spark of Conscience, or Reason, must Renounce, and Detest. But this Dismal Effect has such a State of Habitual Hypocrisy, that it quite Damps, and Extinguishes Both, Quenches the Holy Spirit of God, and Crucifies his Son afresh; and as it finds a Man void of Shame, generally without a Miraculous Conversion leaves him incapable of Repentance, and both Dams him here, and hereafter; and as He Close it in This World, Appoints him in the Next, his Portion with Hypocrites, and Unbelievers, with all Lyars, that have their Part in the Lake which Burns with Fire and Brimstone, with the Grand-Father of Falshood, the Devil and his Angels. And so here We leave our FALSE BRETHREN, in the Company they always keep Correspondence with.

IV. Now what should be the Result of this Long Discourse, but that if We bear any True Concern for the Interest, Honour, and Safety of Our Church, and Government, We ought stedfastly to Adhere to those Fundamental Principles, upon which Both are Founded, and upon which their Security, under God alone, depends; and consequently that it highly Behoves Us, Cautionly to Watch against, to Mark, and Avoid All those that thus Treacherously Desert them. And indeed it would be both for Our Advantage, as well as Their Credit, if such Men would throw off the Mask, entirely Quit Our Church, of which they are no True Members, and not fraudulently Eat Her Bread, and lay wait for Her Ruine, Partain Her Revenues, and ungratefully Lift up their Heels against Her. For then We should be One Fold under One Shepherd, all those Invidious Distinctions that now Distract, and Confound Us Lost, and We should be Terrible like an Army of Banners to our Enemies, who could never Break in upon such an Uniform, and Well-compacted Body. This indeed would be a True Peace, and Solid Union, when We should All with One Mind, and One Mouth, Glorify God, and not with a Confus'd Diversity of Contradictory Opinions, and inconsistent Jargon of Worship, which the God of Peace, Purity, and Order cannot but Abhor. As it is a Maxim in Politicks, that All Governments are best supported by the same Methods, and Counsels upon which they were Founded; so it will appear undeniably True in its Application to our Constitution, which can be Maintain'd by no Other Principles, but Those on which it is Built, and like their Basis, the Gospel, if there's any Violation, or Breach made in any Branch of it, it shakes and endangers the whole Frame, and Body. These Things, however Little they

they may be Represented by Our Adversaries, will be found of the most Considerable Consequence. Let Us therefore, as We are unhappily Sharers of St. Paul's Misfortune, to have our Church in Perils among FALSE BRETHREN, follow his Example, and Conduct in a Parallel Case. He tells us in his Epistle to the Galatians, c. 2. That he was Obstructed, and Pester'd in his Preaching the Gospel, by FALSE BRETHREN, unawares brought in, who came Privily to spy out his Liberty, which he had in Christ Jesus, that they might bring him into Bondage. To whom he gave place by Subjection, no not for an Hour, that the Truth of the Gospel might continue with the Church. Doubtless this Brave, and Bold Resolution did the Apostle take by the peculiar Command; and Inspiration of the Holy Ghost; and yet if Our Dissenters had Liv'd in those Times, they would have Branded him as an Intemperate, Hot, Furious Zealot, that wanted to be Sweetn'd, by the Gentle Spirit of Charity, and Moderation, forsooth! Schism, and Faction, are Things of Impudent, and Inroaching Natures; they Thrive upon Concessions, take Permission for Power, and Advance a Toleration immediately into an Establishment; And are therefore to be treated like Growing Mischiefs, or Infectious Plagues, kept at a Distance, lest their Deadly Contagion spread. Let Us therefore have no Fellowship with these Works of Darkness, but rather reprove them. Let Our Superior Pastors do their Duty in Thundering out their Ecclesiastical Anathema's, and let any Power on Earth Dare Reverse a Sentence Ratify'd in Heaven. Let them Discourage all these Seditious, Lukewarm, Almost-Christians, and Promote Men of Probity, Conscience, and Courage. I say Conscience, and Courage, for the One without the Other, is like Faith without Works, Dead, and Insignificant. A Christian, and a Coward, are such Contradictions, as were never found in the Church Militant; Men of Timorous and Dastardly Spirits, who are Asham'd to Own, or Afraid to defend their Principles, lest they should lose, or suffer by it, will prove very Poor Disciples of the Cross! Such Men (as an Ingenious Prelate Wittily expresses it) are only Honest by Chance. Let Us Despise the sneaking, shuffling Compliances of such, as Consult their Safety, and not their Innocence, and dare to be True in the Worst of Times, with this All-sustaining Cordial Comfort, that whatever Enemies We gain, or Friends We lose, We carry One within Us, that can Confront, Vanquish, and Counter-Balance All. Woe unto them that have a Fearful Heart, and to the Feeble Hands, and to the Sinner that goeth two manner of ways! says the Wise Man, Eccclus. 2. 12. And agreeable to Him the Apostle in very Sarcastic Expressions, Jude 11, 12, 13. Woe unto them that have gone in the Way

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of Cain, and ran greedily after the Error of Balaam for Reward, and Perish'd in the Gain-saying of Corah! These are Spots in your Feasts of Charity, Clouds without Water, carry'd about of Winds, Trees whose Fruits are wither'd, without Fruit, Twice Dead, pluck'd up by the Roots, Raging Waves of the Sea, foaming out their Own Shame; Wandring Stars, to whom is reserv'd the Blackness of Darknes for ever. Let Us therefore, being well assur'd how much Our Cause Deserves, and how much at present it Requires Our bravest Resolutions, hold fast our Integrity, and Religion, without Wavering, and earnestly Contend for the Faith, which was once deliver'd unto the Saints. My Brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the Power of his Might. Put on the whole Armour of God, that Ye may be able to stand against the Wiles of the Devil. For we Wrestle not only against Flesh and Blood, but against Principalities, against Powers, against the Rulers of the Darknes of this World, against Spiritual Wickednesses in High Places. Wherefore take unto you the whole Armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the Evil Day, and having done All, to stand, Eph. 6. 10, &c. Not doubting, but that if We shew the same Courage, and Indefatigable Zeal, and Labour, to Defend, as Our Adversaries to Reproach, Divide, and Ruin our Church, neither their united Malice, nor Power, nor all the Plots, and Machinations of Rome, nor the very Gates of Hell it self, shall ever be able to Prevail against Her. And let us Trust in that Gracious Providence, which so Miraculously Deliver'd Her on this Day, that tho' She lies Bleeding of the Wounds she has receiv'd in the House of Her Friends, Lam. 2. 2, 4. tho' the ways of Zion may Mourn for a time, and Her Gates be Desolate, her Priests Sigh, and she in Bitterness, because Her Adversaries are Chief, and Her Enemies at present Prosper; tho' among all her Lovers she has few to Comfort Her, and many of Her Friends have dealt Treacherously with Her, and are become Her Enemies, Zech. 13. 6. tho' there are few to Guide Her among all the Sons whom she hath brought forth, neither are there many that take Her by the Hand, of all the Sons that she hath brought up, Isai. 51. 18. Tho' her Enemies cry Down with Her, Down with Her, even to the Ground, Yet there is a God that can, and will, Raise Her up, and take Her not. Let us not therefore ungratefully contribute to Her destruction, but let us continue Steadfast, Immoveable, always abiding in the Love of the Lord, soasmuch as We know that our Labour will not be in vain in the Lord, 1 Cor. 15. 58. Now, the God of all Grace, who hath called Us into his Eternal Glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffer'd a while, make you Perfect, Stablish, Strengthen, Settle You, 1 Pet. 5. 10, 11. To Him be Glory, and Dominion, for ever, and ever. Amen.

Let Us conclude all in that Excellent Collect of Our Church,

O Lord, We beseech thee, let thy continual Pity Cleanse, and Defend thy Church; and because it cannot continue in Safety, without thy Succour, Preserve it evermore by thy Help, and Goodness, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

F I N I S.



